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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,560	06/03/2005	Kamil Zerouk	36.0164-PCT-US	4708
7590 05/24/2007			EXAMINER	
WesternGeco Intellectual Property Department P O Box 2469 Houston, TX 77252-2469			LOBO, IAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3662	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Soubaras ('203).

The patent to Soubaras discloses a method and apparatus for processing seismic data. The method includes actuating a seismic source, acquiring seismic data in the frequency-space domain, determining a prediction filter from seismic data at a frequency at which swell noise is not present (see col. 4, lines 9-10) and applying the prediction filter to seismic data at a frequency where swell noise is present to thereby attenuate the swell noise. The apparatus includes means for acquiring seismic data in the frequency-space domain, means for determining a prediction filter from the seismic data at a frequency where swell noise is not present (col. 4, lines 9-10) and means for applying the prediction filter to seismic data at a frequency where swell noise is present to thereby attenuate the swell noise. Independent claims 1, 6, 9, 14 and 16 are thus, anticipated.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-13 and 15 are further anticipated by the method and apparatus disclosed in Soubaras.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 14 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 14, line 4, and line 6 claim a "third frequency" and a "fourth frequency", respectively. However, the antecedents for a first and second frequency are not clearly set forth. Appropriate correction is required.

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Conclusion

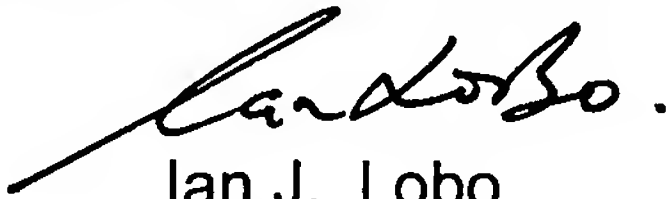
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ian J. Lobo whose telephone number is (571) 272-6974.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas H. Tarcza can be reached on (571) 272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Ian J. Lobo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3662